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HANDBOOK
OF
RURAL SANITARY SCIENCE

*ILLUSTRATING THE BEST MEANS OF SECURING
HEALTH AND OF PREVENTING DISEASE*

BY

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PREFACE.

THE great amount of preventable sickness and premature death resulting from neglect of the laws of health, together with the importance of a better appreciation of sanitary matters, especially in rural districts, is now pretty generally admitted. It is hoped that the present volume will in some measure supply a want long felt of a handbook on Rural Sanitary Science, containing an epitome of what has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the country, as well as what still requires to be done in the same direction.

Early in 1875 I offered a small prize for an essay upon 'Rural Sanitary Science and its further application, with a view to ensure the highest condition of health and to prevent disease.' Mr. Bailey Denton, C.E., and Mr. James Howard, of Bedford, kindly undertook the responsibility of adjudicating upon the

essays, and I desire to take the present opportunity of thanking them for the very valuable assistance they have rendered me in the matter, as well as for the great care and attention they gave to the subject.

The essayists were directed to address themselves:—To the powers possessed, but not exercised, by the Local Government Board, and to the effect of diversity of opinion existing amongst its advisers. Also as to any new powers they would suggest as desirable to invest the Board with. Further, as to the applicability of the standards of pollution of effluent waters recommended by the Rivers Pollution Commissioners, and the subject of the non-pollution of rivers.

In judging of the merits of the essays the following points were to be taken into consideration:—

1.—The practicability and facility of applying the treatment proposed by the authors for securing:—

- (a) Supply of pure water;
- (b) The discharge of refuse;
- (c) The disposal of refuse.

2.—The nature and simplicity of Rural Sanitary Organisation whereby to secure:—

- (a) Purity of air within and around dwellings;
- (b) Cleanliness within and around dwellings;

(c) The best means of carrying out the above objects under the most varying circumstances.

Nineteen essays were sent in, and the prize was awarded to Mr. C. F. Gardner, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, whose essay is comprised in the first five chapters of this work, and bore the following motto:—

‘ὥσπερ ἱματίων ῥαγέντων εἰσὶ τινες ἡπηταί, οὕτω καὶ οἱ ἰατροί, ὅταν τινὲς νοσήσωσι, τότε ἰῶνται τούτους· σοὶ δὲ τούτου μεγαλοπρεπεστέρα ἔσται ἡ τῆς ὑγείας ἐπιμέλεια.’—
XENOPHON, *Cyropædia*, i. 6.

‘As there are persons who mend torn garments, so there are physicians to heal the sick; but your duty is far nobler, and one befitting a great man—viz., to keep the people in health.’—*Translation*.

Mr. Gardner will be known to many as the author of a successful essay on ‘The Inequalities and Anomalies of the Present System of Local Taxation.’

In making their award, the adjudicators specially recommended as deserving ‘honourable mention’ the essays by Dr. W. Berry, Mr. C. N. Cresswell, Mr. T. Hennell, also those by Mr. Tyson, of Hulme, and Dr. Ward, of Grange-over-Sands.

The prize essay is printed in full. The remaining essays were placed in my hands to arrange for publication; and in carrying out this very agreeable task I have endeavoured to put before the reader the

original views of each writer, whilst I have striven to avoid as much as possible a repetition of those matters which have been treated of in other portions of the book.

As the independent expression of several writers, it is hoped that the present handbook will be found to contain many useful suggestions upon the subject of urban as well as rural sanitary science, and that it will prove a useful pocket companion for justices of the peace, clergy, sanitary officers, members of local boards, as well as of the public generally, who are anxiously looking for the realisation of that important declaration, 'the first duty of a Minister is the health of the people.'

LORY MARSH.

11 Spring Gardens,
Charing Cross, S.W.

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